

Message Text

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61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 250045Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1556

S E C R E T CANBERRA 4725

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PFOR, OVIP, MAR

SUBJECT: DEFMIN BARNARD VISIT: NWC NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 167978

1. DCM HAPPENED TO MEET WITH PRITCHETT TODAY ON AMBERLEY PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTEL. PRITCHETT CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE NORTHWEST CAPE DISCUSSIONS IN RELATIVELY SHORT NEGOTIATION WITH YOU. HE AGREES TO ADVISABILITY OF HIS GOING ON AHEAD OF BARNARD TO PREPARE AGREEMENT FOR SIGNATURE SINCE "IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISCUSS DRAFT LANGUAGE BY CABLE."

2. PRITCHETT IS INTELLIGENT FELLOW WHO SEEMS TO STAND HIGH WITH TANGE AND BARNARD. HE OBTAINED FULL FLAVOR OF WASHINGTON VIEWS DURING EARLIER VISIT AND HIS CONFIDENCE IS PRESUMABLY JUSTIFIED. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD SEEM PRUDENT FOR HIM TO COME A GOOD FOUR OR FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE.

3. IN REGARD TO TIMING, WHITLAM WILL DEPART FOR HIS EXTENDED TRIP TO JAPAN AND CHINA OCTOBER 25, RETURNING APPROX NOVEMBER 5. DURING THIS PERIOD BARNARD WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO REMAIN IN CANBERRA AS ACTING PM. SINCE QUEEN WILL BE IN AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 17 TO 22, IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE BARNARD TO WASHINGTON BEFORE SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER.

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4. I SUPPOSE WE ARE IN NO PARTICULAR HURRY ON THIS ISSUE, SO TIMING REALLY DEPENDS UPON GOA ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD RENEWED DOMESTIC ATTENTION TO SUBJECT HERE. YOU MIGHT PROPOSE DATES IN NOVEMBER BUT MENTION POSSIBILITY OF SQUEEZING

BARNARD IN DURING OCTOBER IF THAT IS IMPORTANT TO AUSTRALIANS.

5. I WILL BE SEEING HIM NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS WASHINGTON VISIT
AND WILL REPORT FURTHER. ASSUME WE WILL ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE
DISPOSITION OF TWO AFTAC FACILITIES PRIOR TO BARNARD'S VISIT.
GREEN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. FINNERTY, 8/24/73.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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